





Executive Officer Capt. William Hart



Commanding Officer
Capt. Terry Kraft



Command Master Chief CMDCM (AW/SW) Jim Delozier



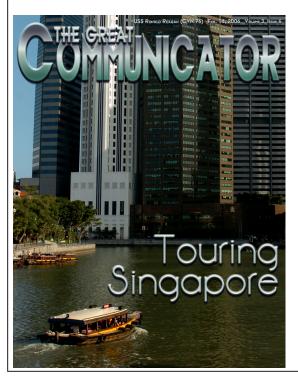
# \$1.6 million in SRBs awarded

With his crew around him Captain Terry B. Kraft, Commanding Officer of USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76), demonstrates his enthusiasm after he witnessed the reenlistment ceremony of 147 Sailors aboard the carrier today. The Sailors received combined Selective Reenlistment Bonuses (SRBs) worth more than \$1.6 million. Photo by PHC (AW/NAC) Spike Call.

See full story on page 3!



## On the front cover



Cover photo by PH3 (AW) Aaron Burden

The crowded Singapore skyline catches the sunlight as business continues on the Singapore river. More than 4,800 Sailors from the Ronald Reagan Carrier Strike Group visited the city. Ronald Reagan is currently underway on it's maiden deployment in support of the Global War on Terrorism and maritime security operations.

This newspaper is an authorized publication for military members on board USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76). Contents of The Great Communicator are not the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense or the United States Navy.

## Staff Writers

JO3 Cara Maib
PH3 Chris
Blachly
LI3 Paul Ahlers
PHAN (AW)
Katie Gorby
PHAN
Lawrence Davis

Photographic and printing support is provided by CVN 76 Steel Horse Imaging



## **Table of Contents**

RRSG Sailors go jungle cruising Page 3 Crash and Salvage Page 3 \$1.6 million in SRBs goes to Reagan Sailors Page 3 Volunteers horse around in Singapore Page 9 Around the Fleet Page 5 Letter to the Editor Reader's Choice Reel Time Page 10 InsiderdotCom This day in history Page 4 Just for laughs Page 8 Photo spread Page 6 & 7 Sailor of the Day Page 11

# **RRSG Sailors spend a day jungle cruising**

By PH3 Chris Blachly

Staff Writer

The sun beats down on an open courtyard ringed by mechanics and food vendors. The courtyard is hectic as riders take a last minute lap to fine tune their brakes, and others form a line to add a little more air to their tires. As the riders are given word to start, dogs scatter from around the mob, and eighty-eight cyclists head off on a journey.

This wasn't the start of some world-renowned bicycle race. It wasn't even the start of some obscure, unknown bike race. On the morning of Feb. 8, 88 Sailors from USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) and USS Lake Champlain (CG 57) congregated on Pulau Ubin (Granite Island), just north of the Singapore mainland, to mountain bike through some of Singapore's fantastic jungle country.

Pulau Ubin's history as a colonized island began at it's namesake, large quarries that provided the granite for tabletops, palace floors and sculptures to decorate the landscape. Later it became home to plantations and farms, providing rubber, coffee, pineapples, coconuts and jasmine to the mainland. Today, no more stone comes from the empty quarries, and the slowly advancing jungle has taken over most of the farmland. The only things leaving Pulau Ubin are "bumboats," small passenger ferries that travel between the island and the Singapore mainland, and the only things growing are the bicycle shops lining the street and providing visitors with a way to explore Pulau Ubin and catch a glimpse of what Singapore looked like before it became the busiest port city in the world.

Jungle ... Cont. on page 9

### Crash and Salvage

The flight deck's first response team

By PHAN Lawrence Davis

Staff Writer

Their name, "Crash and Salvage," is self-explanatory. Those are the guys posted up on the flight deck waiting for something to crash so they can salvage it, right?

According to Aviation Boatwain's Mate (Handling) 3rd Class William Finnelli, his job is a bit more complex than that

Though Finnelli may be a junior Sailor, he is responsible for many things. Aside from assisting his seniors, he has to make sure everything is prepared on the truck.

"I have to make sure that we have all the tools we may need, the water tank is full and that we have the proper amount of Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF)," said Finnelli

According to Aviation Boatwain's Mate 3rd Class (AW) David Wonderly, Crash and Salvage is a 24 hour job, both in port and while underway. Even though aircraft is inactive when in port, Crash and Salvage are in a stand-by status 24 hours a day. They manage this through what they call an Integrity Watch.

"We stand normal duty section and we have a driver, a senior member, and a junior member either in the shack or up on the flight deck at all times," said Wonderly. "Each duty section has two crash and salvage crews that rotate in and out of a 12 hour watch."

Crash ... Cont. on page 10



LIC (SW/AW) Wilda Duncar

The Merlion, a symbol of Singapore, stands guard at the entrance of Sentosa Island. More than 4,800 Sailors from Ronald Reagan Carrier Strike Group visited the city during a four day port visit.

#### More than \$1.6 million in SRBs awarded to Reagan Sailors

By JO3 Cara Maib

Staff Writer

Navy selective reenlistment bonuses (SRB) totaling \$1,604,156.04 were awarded to 147 USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) Sailors during a mass reenlistment ceremony on the flight deck Feb. 12.

As the group of 147 gathered on the flight deck to raise their right hand and take the oath of enlistment once again, hundreds of other Reagan Sailors showed up to witness the historic ceremony.

According to Senior Chief Navy Career Counselor (SW) Zachariah Phillips,Reagan'scommand career counselor and event organizer, all of the Sailors eagerly volunteered to take part in the event.

"My congratulations

to all the Sailors who reenlisted," said Phillips. "I truly appreciate their hard work, dedication and the decision they've made to continue their careers in the Navy. Our Sailors are nothing short of amazing every day, and I am proud to serve beside them."

"Re-enlistments held from Feb. 1 through Feb. 12 would allow Reagan ship's company and embarked squadrons and staffs the opportunity to reenlist under higher SRB levels during a tax-free month to maximize their SRB benefit," said Phillips.

"I am re-enlisting today for pay reasons, but I know I'm making this a career. I enjoy the Navy," said Operations Specialist 2nd Class (AW/SW) Shanique Green, who was one of the Sailors who took part in the ceremony. "I'm trying to become an officer in the nurse corps," said Green.

"I'm re-enlisting for my family," said Aviation Ordnanceman 1st Class (AW) Gregory Johnson. "The Navy has been good to me, and it's been fun and rewarding," he said.

Capt. Terry B. Kraft, Reagan's commanding officer, congratulated the group of Sailors not only for their award, but also for the sacrifices made each day while serving in the Navy. Kraft also took time to take a group photograph with the 147 Sailors and a large symbolic check showing the combined total of the SRBs.

Reenlist ... Cont. on page 4

# **Insider**dot Com

#### **Original science**

www.redorbit.com

Redorbit.com is a virtual Utopia for intelligent curious minds. The site was launched in May 2003 with the goal of creating the largest, most unique internet community, with the strongest consumer brand, in the most underserved niche on the Web. RedOrbit. com has since become the premier internet destination for space, science, health and technology enthusiasts around the globe. The site is committed to providing stimulating, original content and presentations, with over 300,000 pages. Redorbit.com has a forum promoting a friendly and open environment for all your science and technology needs.

#### **Technology review**

www.techreview.com

Techreview.com stems from one of the oldest technology magazine in the world (est. 1899). Technology Review has a mission to promote the understanding of emerging technologies and to analyze their commercial, economic, social and political impacts on society, government, businesses, academic institutions and individuals. Techreview. com assists business and technology leaders in shaping markets and driving the global economy. Their editorial stance combines the sophisticated, in-depth analyses of emerging technologies and connects them to the business impact of these innovations.



#### 1861 First Medal of Honor action

The earliest military action to be revered with a Medal of Honor award is performed by Colonel Bernard J.D. Irwin, an assistant army surgeon serving in the first major U.S.-Apache conflict.

## 1905 President discusses "race problem"

On this day in 1905, President Theodore Roosevelt delivers a stirring speech discussing the country's current state of race relations and his plan for improving them.

#### Reenlist

#### Continued from page 3

"You've earned the SRB now, and you'll continue to earn it through your future service. What I'm most proud of, however, has nothing to do with SRB or taxes or anything else. It's that you decided to stay a part of this great team, this great organization, this Navy," said Kraft. "You, with your re-enlistment choice, have demonstrated the willingness to give of yourself to a greater cause – the defense of our nation, and the defense of freedom around the globe."

"You've earned the SRB now, and you'll continue to earn it through your future service."

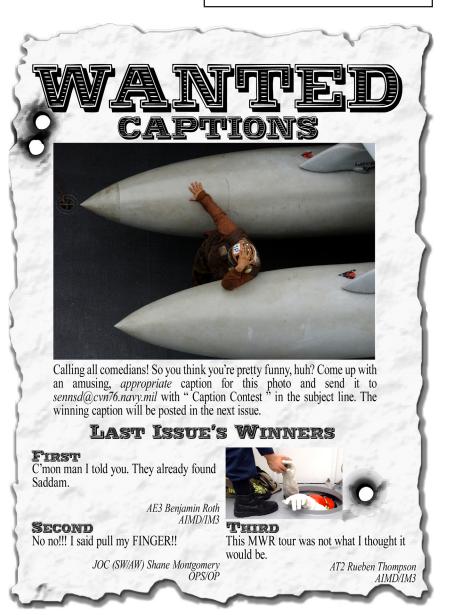
-- Capt. Terry Kraft

Rear Adm. Michael H. Miller, Commander, Carrier Strike Group Seven, administered the oath of enlistment, and added his own remarks of pride and congratulations.

"Your commitment, your belief in a better world and your service here on this ship in making that better world a reality is something that I could not be more proud of," said Miller.

Reagan is currently underway on its maiden deployment in support of the Global War on Terrorism and maritime security operations.

Remember to maintain AC boundaries when transiting the ship!





#### Navy Leaders Budget for 21st Century Sailor, Future Force

By JO2 (SW/AW) Chad A. Bricks, Navy News Service

#### WASHINGTON

(NNS) -- President Bush submitted his 2007 fiscal year (FY) budget request to Congress Feb. 6, which included the Navy's \$127 billion budget proposal. The President's budget request was also accompanied by the recently released Department of Defense's Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR).

According to Navy leaders, the requested budget proposes a 5.9 percent increase in Basic Allowance for Housing, a 2.2 percent pay increase and improved facilities for schools and child care.

#### DoD Identifies Navy Casualty in OEF

Special release from the U.S. Department of Defense

## W A S H I N G T O N (NNS) -- The Department of Defense announced Feb.

of Defense announced Feb. 8, the death of a Sailor who was supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.

Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class John T. Fralish, 30, of New Kingstown, Pa., died Feb. 6, when enemy forces opened fire on a U.S. patrol northwest of Methar Lam in Laghman Province, Afghanistan. Fralish was assigned to the 3rd Marine Division Detachment, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe, Hawaii.

# CNO: QDR "Vectors" Navy to New Skills and Missions

From the Chief of Naval Operations Public Affairs

WASHINGTON
(NNS) -- The Defense
Department's recently
released Quadrennial
Defense Review will
"vector" the Navy toward
the development of new
skills and critical missions,
Chief of Naval Operations
Adm. Mike Mullen said
during an interview Feb. 3.

Mullen said it is important to understand the QDR against the backdrop of the demands of the long war on terror and the Navy's ongoing transformation efforts.

#### F/A-18 Crashes During Training Mission

From Commander, Naval
Air Forces Public Affairs
NAVAL AIR
STATION KEY WEST,
Fla. (NNS) -- A two-

seat Navy F/A-18D aircraft from Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 125, impacted the ocean approximately four miles southeast of the air station during a routine training mission at approximately 5:17 p.m Feb. 6.

The Navy pilot ejected safely and was recovered by Coast Guard search and rescue. The pilot was taken to a local hospital for a thorough physical evaluation.

The cause of the mishap is under investigation.

#### NOAA Considers Grant to Aid Search for John Paul Jones' Flagship

From Naval Historical Center Public Affairs

GROTON, Conn. (NNS) -- The Naval Historical Center's (NHC) search for Revolutionary War naval hero John Paul Jones' ship Bonhomme Richard received further support in early February, when it was recommended for funding through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Office of Ocean Exploration's competitive grant process.

The NHC and Ocean Technology Foundation

(OTF) plan to launch a search for Bonhomme Richard off the coast of England in July.

#### NEHC Launching 2006 "Crews Into Shape" Challenge

By Hugh Cox, Navy Environmental Health Center Public Affairs PORTSMOUTH, Va

(NNS) -- Interested teams have until Feb. 28 to register for the Navy Environmental Health Center's (NEHC) sixth annual "Crews Into Shape" challenge that will

run March 6-31.

The goal of Crews Into Shape is to help foster a culture of fitness in the Navy and Marine Corps. Additionally, the challenge helps to spark and guide workplace-focused, teamoriented physical activity and improved nutrition (fruit and vegetable intake and fluid intake) among active-duty Sailors and Marines, civilian workers and family members.

#### CNO Delivers Shipbuilding Plan to Congress

By Chief of Naval
Operations Public Affairs
Washington (NNS) --

Chief of Naval Operations Adm.MikeMullensubmitted his long-range shipbuilding plan to Congress Feb. 7, designed to grow the Fleet to about 313 ships – up from 281 today.

The Navy's 30-year shipbuilding plan is required by law and accompanied the Navy's FY 07 Budget submission to Congress. It supports the new emphasis on expeditionary and conventional warfighting missions expressed in the QDR.

#### USS Ohio, 1st Guided-Missile Platform, Rejoins Fleet

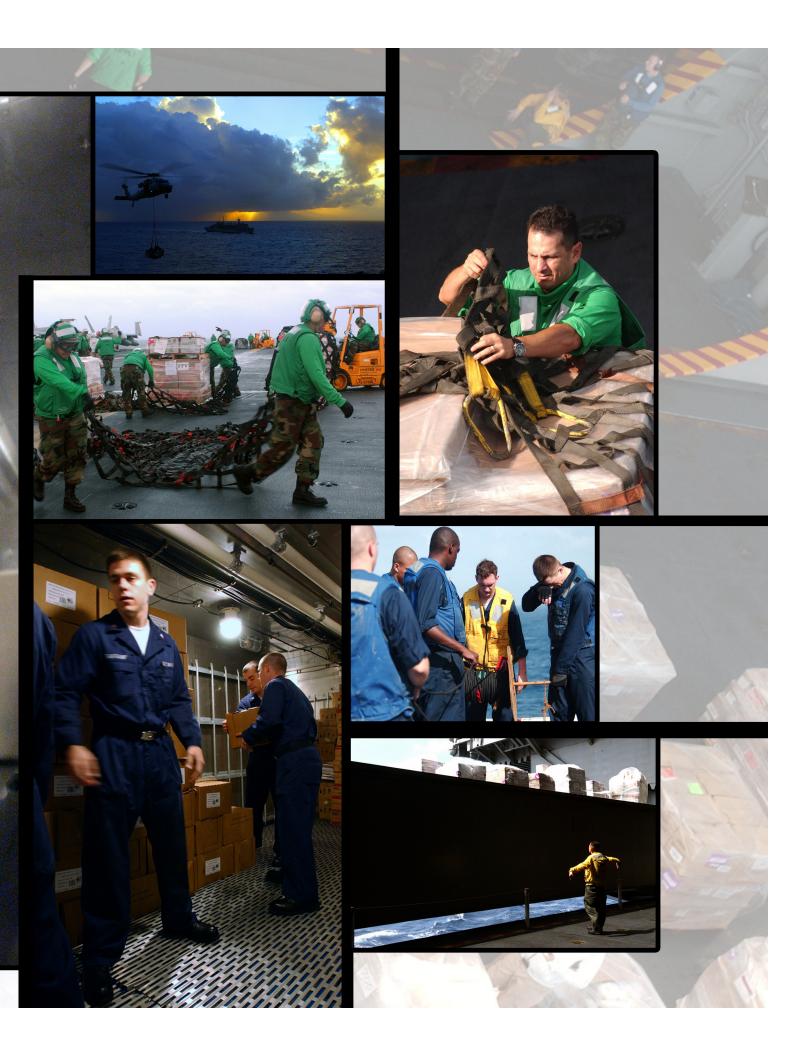
By JO1 (SW) Michael S. Howlett, Commander, Submarine Group 9

#### SILVERDALE, Wash.

(NNS) -- The first of four Ohio-class Trident missile submarines being converted to carry guided missiles and Special Operations Forces (SOF) rejoined the fleet in a return to service ceremony at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor Feb. 7.

In December, USS Ohio (SSGN 726) completed conversion to a guided-missile submarine capable of carrying more than 150 Tomahawk cruise missiles and more than 60 SOF members for extended periods. This conversion is a major step forward in the Navy's ability to fight the global war on terrorism.





# Just for Laughs

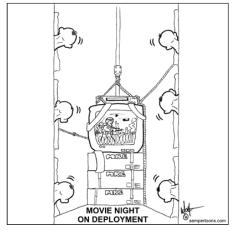
Comics Provided by Military.com

Private Murphy by Mark Baker

#### Broadside by Jeff Bacon



Sempertoons by Charles Wolf











#### **Jungle**

#### Continued from page 3

The local inhabitants of Pulau Ubin are windows to the past in the shadow of the bustling city of Singapore. Their homes are little more than a shelter from the rain, they rely on pumps to draw their water from a well, and if they have electricity, it is only provided from small generators. To support their lifestyle as fishermen, some of the people of Pulau Ubin have even built their homes floating on the waters surrounding the island.

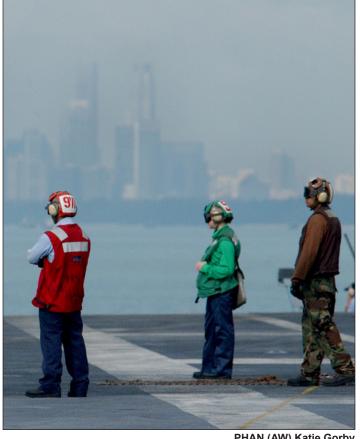
Most of these things were easily seen from the ample paved trails provided by the tourist center on the island. The roads wound peacefully through the jungle, shaded by the canopy overhead and run along the coast, cutting back along small streams, over wooden bridges and back to the shoreline. Cyclists followed these trails at an easy pace, enjoying a cool breeze in the face and a magnificent view.

Vicky Low, tour coordinator, said that many people enjoy the island tour because they find the countryside very scenic and relaxing.

For those looking for a slightly

more in depth look, the island also boasted many dirt trails, some wide enough for motor vehicles and some narrow, single-lane trails that wind through the jungles and swamps offered by the island. Following these trails offered a glimpse at some of the wildlife that calls Pulau Ubin home. The island hosts the only wild population of the Oriental Pied Hornbill and the Red Jungle fowl, an ancestor of the modern chicken. The island also provides homes for wild pigs and monitor lizards, reptiles capable of growing in excess of five feet long.

After the self-guided tour, the Sailors all returned to the courtyard, parked their bicycles and massed around tables for an eight course "family-style" meal that included fresh prawns and fish caught by the island's fishermen. As they sat around the tables, finishing lunch and swapping stories, some of the Sailors had minor cuts and bruises, some of the Sailors were dirtier than they were three hours ago, and all of them were tired, but they all had smiles on their faces and something good to say about Pulau Ubin.



PHAN (AW) Katie Gorby

As USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) departs Singapore after a four-day port visit, Sailors take a final look at the "Lion City." More than 4,800 Sailors from the Ronald Reagan Carrier Strike Group visited the city.

### **Volunteers horse around in Singapore**

By PHAN (AW) Katie Gorby

Staff Writer

When Sailors get to get off the ship in a liberty port like Singapore, it's a good thing. When Sailors donate that free time to help the community their visiting, it's a great thing. Sailors aboard USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) volunteered a day of their liberty Jan. 9 to help clean up a horse pasture and the surrounding area in support of a community relations project (COMREL).

#### "The people of Singapore will remember the Americans."

-- RP1 Eugene Trinidad

"These pastures belonged to Riding Disabled Center," said Lt. Cmdr. David Bynun, head chaplain at Commander, Logistics Western Pacific in Singapore. "It's the only place of it's kind. Horses who are saved after a life on the track are trained to be gentle and carry disabled children."

As any non-profit organization, they have

to rely on donations and volunteers to keep the foundation running.

"In Singapore we don't get many local volunteers to help in this kind of activity," said Religeous Programs Specialist 1st Class Eugene Trinidad. "So when a ship comes into port and we see a great turn out as we did with the Reagan, it shows the locals that the United States Navy it not just about a war vessel, but a tool of peace."

Sailors showed local Singaporeans that there was more to Sailors then drinking and shopping.

"The people of Singapore will remember the Americans and what they did to help them," said Trinidad. "That's something that they will carry on and tell others about."

A project like this not only helps the community, but bestows a sense of accomplishment in the Sailors who donated their

"This is the first COMREL I've participated in," said Chief Culinary Specialist Frank Davita, "I can tell you that it won't be the last. Seeing the work that we have done and knowing that we have made other lives better gives me a great feeling. I definitely suggest that more people volunteer next time."

#### **SHIP'S STORE HOURS**

#### "FLYING DUTCHMAN"

3-148-0-0

#### **MON-SAT**

0915-1400

1530-2000

#### SUNDAYS AND HOLIDAYS

1200-1700

#### "7-ELEVEN"

02-190-4-0

#### **MON-SAT**

0915-1600

1730-2200

2330-0530

#### **SUNDAYS AND HOLIDAYS**

1700-2200

## READER'S CHOICE

What was your favorite part of Singapore?



AFCM (AW) Alix "I played golf."



ABHAN (AW) Sherrill Jackson "The food at Tony Rama's."



EM3 Fletcher Sims
"Getting overnight liberty."



MM1 (SW) Grant Cook "The Chinese New Year celebrations."

## READER'S Letters to the Editor

Dear Crew

Recently one of our illustrious Chiefs, LIC Wilda Duncan, wrote a fan letter to Toni Tennille of *Captain and Tennille*. Suprisingly, she recieved a reply via email.

#### Dear Wilda,

Thank you so much for your kind words. Daryl and I are glad that you are enjoying the DVDs. We've gotten such a kick out of watching them ourselves (after ALL these years). We both hope for your safe deployment on the Ronald Reagan, and that you return home soon.

I am so glad you liked **Saving Up Christmas.** I thought it was such a beautiful song, and, as I sang it, I tried to imagine myself in the place of families separated from each other during the holidays.

Right now Daryl and I are working on a complete Christmas CD for this coming Christmas. Saving Up Christmas will be included. I've written five original Christmas songs, and we're doing our own versions of some favorites like Silent Night and Here Comes Santa Claus. I hope you will enjoy it when the holidays roll around again, and I hope you will be home by then!

Best wishes,

#### TONI TENNILLE

#### Crash—

#### Continued from page 3

According to Finnelli, there are ways to handle just about any situation that may come up on their watch.

"If a plane crashes into the flight deck we have to extinguish as much of the fire as possible and clear a path to the canopy [the glass over the top of the jet that provides entrance], so we're able to get in and rescue the aircrew," said Finnelli. "If a plane crashes into the catwalk we have to first secure it to the deck and de-fuel the aircraft before following any other salvage procedures."

The team shuts down the aircraft in order to cut off the fuel supply, preventing any further explosions, and then salvages the remains. In a "worst case scenario," they'll be required to jettison the aircraft over the side to avoid further damage to the ship and dangers to the crew.

When the crash and salvage team isn't fighting fires and saving lives, they are constantly honing their skills by training in real-world scenarios for any type of flight deck emergency that might occur.

"We study all the time," said Finelli. "We're constantly working on qualifications for our job."

Even though there are no aircraft on board when the ship is in homeport at San Diego, the crash and salvage team is still responsible for maintaining all fire stations around the flight deck and performing maintenance on all flight gear.

"Basically our job is to stand by and pray that nothing happens," said Wonderly. "If something does happen, we are always right there in the middle of things to keep the crew and the ship safe."



## Cinderella Man

ACTING = A
DIRECTING = A
STORYLINE = A
CAMERA WORK = A
OVERALL = A

### Today's Movies

Ch. 2 - Cinderella Man

Ch. 3 - The Family Stone

Ch. 4 -The Longest Yard

Ch. 5 - Matchstick Men

### Tomorrow's Movies

Ch. 2 - Cheaper by the Dozen 2 Ch. 3 - Freddy vs. Jason Ch. 4 - Mystic River Ch. 5 - Without a Paddle

#### by LISN Lorenz Leppert

If you happen to be a fan of drama, especially those that portray humanity at its best when times are at their worst, then I wholeheartedly recommend the Cinderella Man directed by Ron Howard. Russell Crowe does an outstanding job portraying the real life of James Braddock struggling through the Depression, finding whatever work he can in order to feed his family and keep them alive, safe and together.

The film is set in New York during the Great Depression and as their lives become harder and harder Braddock and his wife, portrayed by Renee Zellweger, struggle to hold on to their positive outlook. Their overdue notices pile up, their heat is turned off, they have no money for food and their youngest

son has become very sick. Braddock, an aged ex-boxer, stands in the work lines at the docks begging to be picked for work. He comes home one day to find out his wife sent their children to live with some of their relatives who could feed them.

With no work and no money, and desperately wanting his children back home, he visits his former boxing employers and begs for help, for money.

The film is very moving, and like I said, if you're a fan of drama, I guarantee you'll appreciate this one. However, because there aren't many fight scenes, all you tough guys and gals who are only into action flicks may be disappointed if that's all you are interested in seeing. And if that's so, then I suggest you go watch Rambo or something.









Department: Supply
Job Title: Window Clerk
Where are you from?
Lubbock, Texas
What inspires you? My
daughter
Why did you join the
Navy? To see other

places
Who do you hold
responsible for your
success? My mom
What piece of advice
would you pass on to
others? Follow your
dreams



◀

Department: Operations
Job Title: Imagery Analyst
Where are you from? Los
Angeles, Calif.
What inspires you?
Wanting to be like Jesus
Christ
Why did you join the Navy?
Education/Travel/Serve
Who do you hold
responsible for your
success? My family
What piece of advice would
you pass on to others? Try
your best in everything



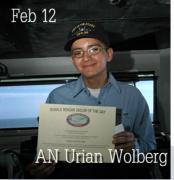


Department: Reactor
Job Title: Assistant WCS
Where are you from?
Kingwood, Texas
What inspires you?
Music/Vision of succes
Why did you join the
Navy? Interest in
nuclear field
Who do you hold
responsible for your
success? Myself
What piece of advice
would you pass on to
others? Work hard and
be honest





Department:
Engineering
Job Title: Assistant WCS
Where are you from?
Wasilla, Alaska
What inspires you? My
daughter Brenna
Why did you join the
Navy? To see the world
Who do you hold
responsible for your
success? My stepdad
What piece of advice
would you pass on to
others? Do things right
the first time



Department: VFA-25
Job Title: None
Where are you from? El
Paso, Texas
What inspires you? My
dad
Why did you join the
Navy? To start a career
Who do you hold
responsible for your
success? Myself
What piece of advice
would you pass on to
others? Follow your

